

**STATEMENT OF  
CHAIRMAN KEVIN J. MARTIN**

*Re: Telecommunications Services Inside Wiring Customer Premises Equipment, CS Docket No. 95-184, Implementation of the Cable Television Consumer Protection and Competition Act of 1992: Cable Home Wiring, MM Docket No. 92-260, Clarification of the Commission's Rules and Policies Regarding Unbundled Access to Incumbent Local Exchange Carriers' Inside Wire Subloop, WC Docket No. 01-338, Report and Order and Declaratory Ruling*

Today we take action to ensure that the pro-competitive, deregulatory goals of the 1996 Act are realized by removing economic and operational barriers to infrastructure investment in the communications market. Competition is ultimately the best protector of the consumer's interest. It is the best method of delivering the benefits of choice, innovation, and affordability to American consumers.

Consistent with my commitment to fostering a competitive marketplace and consumer choice, I have and will continue to encourage new entrants trying to break into both the voice and video markets. Today we take an important step to facilitate competition in both markets by addressing the ability of new competitors to use the internal wiring of both incumbent telephone and cable operators in a consistent fashion.

Specifically, we are granting Cox's petition for declaratory ruling regarding the scope of access to incumbent telephone companies' inside wire in apartment buildings. This decision allows a new entrant competing to provide telephone service to gain access to inside wiring, thereby facilitating competition between telephone providers to serve customers who live in apartment buildings.

Similarly, the Order also finds that a new entrant competing to provide cable service can gain access to inside cable wiring that is "physically inaccessible." This ruling thereby facilitates competition between cable providers to serve customers who live in apartment buildings.

The action we take today seeks to foster competition across different platforms and is competitively and technologically neutral. Importantly, we are seeking to support all new entrants and do not favor one technology or industry over another. Moreover, we achieve regulatory parity by applying a consistent regulatory framework across platforms. This Order demonstrates the Commission's commitment to ensure that all consumers—including those living in apartment buildings—benefit from competition in the provision of voice and video services.